

**Commission on the Improvement of the Status of Children in Indiana**  
**Education Outcomes Task Force Meeting**  
**May 8, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**  
**Indiana Government Center South Building Conference Room 17**

**Minutes**

**Task Force Members in attendance:** Sean Coleman, J.T. Coopman, Leslie Crist, Cathy Danyluk, Leslie Dunn, Melaina Gant, Susan Lockwood, Marg Mast, Theresa Ochoa, Lenée Reedus, Anita Silverman

**Task Members approved the minutes from the March 6, 2015 meeting.**

Susan Lockwood reviewed the Education Outcomes Task Force Report to the Commission, and the “Action Items” presented to the Commission by the Education Outcomes Task Force. The Action Items presented to the Commission were as follows:

1. Review and endorse the newly revised Juvenile Detention Standards.
2. Review and endorse the recommendations for the OJJDP Comprehensive Juvenile Systems Reform Planning Project.
3. Approve to establish the School Discipline and Climate sub-committee of the Education Outcomes Task Force.

Libby Milliken, from the Office of State Court Administration, provided a presentation on the Expungement of Juvenile Records, including an explanation of I.C. 31-39-8. Discussion after the presentation resulted in a recommendation to draft a guidance document for school administrators and youth workers regarding juvenile records and expungement.

Melaina Gant distributed examples of various policies and programs utilized by school corporations to address truancy. Specifically, she highlighted Elkhart Community Schools, the Allen County Status Offender Court Alternatives Program, the Gary City Truancy Court Program, Project Attend, from LaPorte County, and the CASIE Center (Child Advocacy Center Serving the Needs of Children and Families of St. Joseph County). Discussion included the need for maximizing our existing resources to train school personnel to support truancy initiatives. DCS, DOE and the Judicial Center could do this, and it was mentioned that we should encourage the judges to take leadership in this area. The Education Outcomes Task Force identified truancy reduction as an objective for the coming year, and will continue to study the topic in order to make actionable recommendations to stakeholders.

Susan Lockwood described the new sub-committee of the Education Outcomes Task Force, to be formally established by the Commission at its May 20 meeting. The School Discipline and Climate committee will be led by Ms. Julie Smart from the Indiana Department of Education, and will make regular reports to the Education Outcomes Task Force. The School Discipline and Climate committee’s objectives include using data to identify areas of need relevant to reducing school suspensions and expulsions, and to provide guidance and leadership to support schools with alternatives to school suspension and expulsion.

Susan Lockwood reviewed the objectives of the Education Outcomes Task Force, and asked for input regarding the need to “Narrow the Focus” during 2015-16. After the discussion, the group identified the following three areas to address throughout the coming year:

1. Increase School Stability and Decrease Absenteeism (Truancy)
2. Improve transitions for youth from DOC and DCS to other agencies and to the community, including reenrollment into school.
3. Increasing alternatives for schools regarding youth who would otherwise be suspended or expelled.

The group discussed meeting times for 2015-2016, and agreed to continue to meet bi-monthly. Meeting dates for 2015-2016 include: July 9, 2015, September 11, 2015, November 6, 2015, January 8, 2016, March 4, 2016, and May 6, 2016.

Susan Lockwood provided an update on the OJJDP Second Chance Act Comprehensive Juvenile Reentry System Reform project. The IDOC, through cross-agency collaboration and support from the Education Outcomes Task Force and regional reentry task forces in South Bend and Indianapolis, is prepared to submit an Implementation proposal for OJJDP Second Chance Act federal funding by the June 23, 2015 deadline.